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ANGOLA ON THE EVE OF THE OAU SUMMIT

ANNCR: ON SATURDAY, IN THE CITY OF ADDIS ABABA, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 46 AFRICAN STATES WILL TRY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY TURMOIL IN ANGOLA WHICH MAY SOMEDAY BECOME THE 47TH MEMBER OF THEIR GROUP -- THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. VOA NEWS ANALYST GEORGE HALSEY HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE: ONE WEEK LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO TODAY (1/15/75), THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL AND THE LEADERS OF ANGOLA'S THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AGREED ON INDEPENDENCE FOR ANGOLA. THE DATE WAS SET FOR NOVEMBER 11, 1975, AND IN THE MEANTIME, THERE WAS TO BE A CAREFULLY CRAFTED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND A UNIFIED ARMY. THAT AGREEMENT WAS HAILED AS A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. NOT ONLY DID IT FORESHADOW A PEACEFUL END TO FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF PORTUGUESE RULE OVER ANGOLA, IT ALSO SEEMED THE BEGINNING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN FIGHTING EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS THEY HAD FOUGHT AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION DETERIORATED. BY THE TIME INDEPENDENCE DAY CAME AROUND TEN MONTHS LATER, THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD DISSOLVED, THE ARMY HAD BEEN UNIFIED ONLY ON PAPER, AND FACTIONAL FIGHTING HAD RESUMED. SUCH WAS THE DISARRAY IN ANGOLA, THAT AT MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 10 LAST YEAR, PORTUGAL RELINQUISHED ITS RULE ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN TO ANY OF THE THREE ARMED MOVEMENTS. TWO OF THEM -- THE NATIONAL FRONT AND UNITA -- PROCLAIMED ONE GOVERNMENT, AND THE THIRD -- THE POPULAR MOVEMENT -- PROCLAIMED ANOTHER GOVERNMENT. TODAY, TWO MONTHS LATER, THE ISSUE STILL HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED. BUT IT HAS BEEN GREATLY COMPLICATED.

THE COMPLICATION ARISES FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE SOVIET UNION WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPORTING THE POPULAR MOVEMENT -- OR MPLA -- HAS SENT HUGE AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT INTO THE COUNTRY, DECIDING THAT SOVIET INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED IF THAT MINORITY FACTION GAINS THE UPPER HAND. TO HELP INSURE THAT RESULT, THE SOVIET UNION ALSO CALLED IN SOME OF CUBA'S POLITICAL DEBTS. SEVERAL THOUSAND CUBAN TROOPS ARE IN ANGOLA FIGHTING FOR THE POPULAR MOVEMENT, AGAINST THE TWO ALLIED GROUPS WHICH CONTROL THE MAJOR PART OF THE COUNTRY AND REPRESENT THE LARGE MAJORITY OF ITS PEOPLE.

ANOTHER MAJOR COMPLEXITY IS THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ANGOLA. MOVING ACROSS THE BORDER FROM SOUTH-WEST AFRICA, AT FIRST ONLY TO PROTECT A HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT THERE, SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS SINCE HAVE BEEN WIDELY REPORTED DEEPER INSIDE THE COUNTRY, SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL FRONT/UNITA GROUP.

AS THE ANGOLAN SITUATION HAS GROWN MORE AND MORE TENSE, OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED. AND THIS WEEK, FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MET TO PLAN A SUMMIT MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY IN ADDIS ABABA. ON THE EVE OF THAT MEETING, THE SOVIET UNION HAS DONE ITS BEST TO FOCUS AFRICAN ATTENTION ON THE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE FROM ONE DIRECTION -- SOUTH AFRICA -- WHILE IGNORING ITS OWN MUCH GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. AND IT STILL USES THE RHETORIC THAT IT HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ANYWHERE --IGNORING THE FACT THAT ANGOLA ALREADY HAS BEEN LIBERATED, AND THAT MOSCOW IN REALITY IS SUPPORTING A MINORITY POLITICAL FACTION SEEKING TO IMPOSE ITS WILL BY FORCE ON THE MAJORITY OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

TO THE UNITED STATES, THE SITUATION SEEMS CLEAR ENOUGH. THERE SHOULD BE A CEASE-FIRE AMONG THE FIGHTING GROUPS. ALL FOREIGN

FORCES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA -- SOVIET, CUBAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN. AND THEN -- AS THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WISELY URGED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE -- THE ANGOLAN FACTIONS, RECOGNIZING THAT NO ONE OF THEM REPRESENTS A MAJORITY, SHOULD FORM A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. THE BENEFITS TO ANGOLA WOULD BE OBVIOUS. THE BENEFITS TO AFRICA -- AND THE WORLD -- IN REDUCED TENSION AND THE END OF A THREATENED MAJOR POWER CONFRONTATION WOULD BE IMMENSE.

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